

27th August 1926]

A.—The rates of grazing fees in the Bellary Forest division are 8 annas per cow unit in the Harpanahalli range except in Toganikatta reserve and 3 annas a cow unit in the other reserves.

A statement^a showing the revenue and expenditure for 1925-26 in respect of the reserves mainly used for grazing which have not yet been handed over to panchayats is appended. In the case of reserves under panchayat management the panchayats themselves fix the grazing fee, collect revenue and regulate expenditure.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ May I request the hon. the Home Member to furnish information, similar to that contained in the appendix to this answer, as regards the other reserves also ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I am prepared to consider the suggestion. ”

Working of forests in the Presidency for industrial purposes.

* 2357 Q.—Mr. Chavadi K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government have collected all ‘ relevant information ’ promised in answer to question No. 1054, dated 21st October 1924, in regard to the working of any other forest in the Presidency in the manner in which the Papanasam forests are being worked for industrial purposes and with what result ?

A.—Papanasam forests are not worked now for industrial purposes, nor are any other forest being so worked except the Chenat Nayar forest the conditions of which are quite different from those of Papanasam. Information collected from the Philippines and Java as bearing on the development of these forests points strongly to the fact that such areas may be intensively worked to the benefit of the forests and the profit of the Government.

Mr. Chavadi K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI :—“ May I know if trees are being cut in the Papanasam forests ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I do not think so, Sir. ”

Jails.

Condition of Mappilla settlers in the Andamans.

* 2358 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to the answer given to my question No. 1626, on 18th March 1926, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report submitted by the committee appointed by the Government of India to enquire into the conditions of the Mappilla settlers in the Andamans has been received by the Government of Madras ;

(b) if so, when it will be placed before this House ;

(c) what the recommendations of the Committee are ;

(d) what the number of the Mappilla prisoners sent to the Andamans is, and of their families ; and

(e) what the condition of their health is ?

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A.—(a) A copy of the report submitted to the Government of India by the Committee has been received by the Government of Madras;

(b) & (c) The question of publication of the report is one for the Government of India;

(d) The question is not clear. The total number of Mappilla prisoners transported to the Andamans since 1922 is one thousand three hundred and twenty-six. The number transported under the Colonization scheme is one. As regards the families of the convicts, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 442-A, clause (i), on 26th August 1925.

(e) It is believed that the condition of their health is satisfactory.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"With reference to clause (e) the answer is 'it is believed that the condition of their health is satisfactory'. May I know on what grounds it is believed so?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"From the reports received, Sir."

Pensions.

Applications for commutation of pensions.

** 2359 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of pending applications for commutation of pensions from (1) menials, (2) Non-gazetted officers, (3) Provincial Service officers and (4) Imperial Service officers, and the date of the longest pending application in each of the four classes;

(b) the provision made in the budget for commutation of pensions and how it has been distributed among the various classes of pensions;

(c) whether it is a fact that before the official year had hardly run three months, there were no funds for the Provincial Service men;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Imperial Service officers are treated differently from the Provincial Service officers, the former being allowed the concession as a matter of course, while the latter are not; and

(e) whether the Secretary of State has given it as his view that commutation should not ordinarily be deferred or, refused, except on medical grounds and, if so, the steps taken by the Government to give effect to the above view and dispose of the pending applications?

A.—(a) Of the applications for commutation of pensions received up to 15th July 1926, the number pending final disposal under each of the four classes, together with the dates of the longest pending applications, is given below :—

Class.	Number.	Date of the longest pending application.
Menials	Nil.	...
Non-gazetted officers	455	1st April 1925.
Gazetted officers	46	1st April 1925.
All-India Service officers	2	23rd March 1926.

These figures exclude cases in which the commutation of pension is inadmissible.